

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

Communication from the Commission

The following is the communication received from the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Mr. Esteban de Salas, in response to the invitation extended to the Commission to attend the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) meeting of 29-30 June 1999. While CCAMLR will be unable to participate at this meeting, its communication provides a brief overview of its work.

1. Thank you for your invitation to attend the Meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Geneva from 29 to 30 June, received on May 5. I regret to inform you that we will be unable to attend the above-mentioned meeting due to a number of financial and administrative reasons.

2. It is also relevant to point out that the CCAMLR is now in the process of developing a number of measures, some of which are trade-related. However, the work on these measures is not finished yet. A brief description of this work is given below.

3. One of the major issues discussed at the CCAMLR meetings in 1997 and 1998 was that of the illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) in the CCAMLR Convention Area. This activity threatens stocks of toothfish through over-fishing, and populations of seabirds through incidental capture and mortality during longlining. Vessels of both CCAMLR Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, have been sighted fishing in the Convention Area in contravention of Conservation Measures.

4. In 1997 CCAMLR started developing an integrated set of political and legal measures for resolving this situation (see Conservation measures 118/XVI, 119/XVI and 120/XVI). Some measures were drawn from the experience of other fisheries organisations, in particular NAFO and ICCAT; other measures took into account recent developments in international law. The experience of these organisations in the areas of port inspections and catch certification has been of great assistance to CCAMLR.

5. In 1998, the Commission continued to develop this set of measures designed to promote compliance with the Convention, including denial of landings and transshipments by non-Contracting Party vessels which undermine the effectiveness of the CCAMLR conservation measures. In particular, I refer to you to Conservation Measure 118/XVII published in the *Schedule of Conservation Measures in Force, 1998/99*; the full text of which can be found at our website at www.ccamlr.org.

6. Further work is underway and includes developing a comprehensive action policy for the elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for toothfish in the Convention Area, examining approaches that could be adopted, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and international law, for areas adjacent to the Convention Area and developing cooperation with non-Contracting Parties.

7. Within the framework of a future comprehensive action policy, a catch documentation scheme for toothfish had been drafted for discussion at CCAMLR-XVII. This is an important step in the development of regulatory and trade-based measures to monitor the origin of toothfish catches and trade. Further development of this draft scheme was undertaken by CCAMLR Members during an "ad hoc" consultation held in Brussels, Belgium, in April 1999. The revised draft will be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of CCAMLR (October 1999) for consideration and possible adoption.

8. I am certain that CCAMLR Members will be interested in developing cooperation with the World Trade Organization and, in particular, with the Committee on Trade and Environment.
